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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 151528
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 DHA-02 IO-13 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:DPSULLIVAN:CCH
APPROVED BY EA - MR. OAKLEY
EA/IMS - MR. INGRAHAM
H - MS. SWIFT
----------000303 292242Z /73
P 292021Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON TIMOR

REF: JAKARTA 7604

1. FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE RENEWED HEARINGS ON EAST TIMOR JUNE 28. SESSION, WHICH FAIRLY LOW-KEY AND SCHOLARLY IN TONE, FEATURED TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER AND ACADEMICS SHEPARD FORMAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT UNIV. OF MICHIGAN, AND ELIZABETH TRAUBE OF WESLEYAN. CONGRESSMAN GOODLING, WHO JOINED SESSION LATE, DID NOT FORMALLY TESTIFY BUT PLAYED VERY USEFUL ROLE IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD, AS DID MRS. MEYNER.

2. THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF ATROCITIES AS TESTIMONY CENTERED LARGELY ON ANTHROPOLOGICAL FACTORS.

3. GENERAL THRUST OF FORMAN AND TRAUBE TESTIMONY, BASED
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PRIMARILY ON 15 MONTH AND TWO YEAR RESIDENCES ENDING 1974 IN EAST TIMOR STUDYING MAKASSAE AND MAMBAI PEOPLES, RESPECTIVELY, WAS STATEMENT THEIR SHARED BELIEF THAT PEOPLES OF EAST TIMOR ARE CAPABLE OF DECIDING OWN FUTURE AND THAT CHOICE SO FAR DENIED TO THEM. FORMAN ADVANCED

THESIS THAT EAST TIMOR PEOPLE NEITHER LINGUISTICALLY NOR

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ETHNICALLY RELATED TO OTHER PEOPLES OF INDONESIA AND PRE-
SENTED PERSONAL OPINION THAT GIVEN CHOICE, EAST TIMORESE
WOULD OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE. TRAUBE, IN MORE CAUTIOUS
TESTIMONY, STRESSED DIFFICULTY OF EVALUATING ANY PARTY'S
CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR TIMORESE PEOPLE AND DECLINED EXPRESS
JUDGMENT, WHEN ASKED BY FRASER, HOW SHE THOUGHT TIMORESE
MIGHT CHOOSE IF GIVEN OPPORTUNITY. BOTH ACKNOWLEDGED
LACK OF CURRENT FIRST-HAND INFORMATION SINCE DEPARTURES
FROM TIMOR IN 1974. FORMAN, IN QUESTION PERIOD, EXPRESSED
FEAR INDONESIANS WOULD "EXTERMINATE" TIMORESE OPPOSITION
IN MILITARY OPERATIONS DURING CURRENT DRY SEASON.

4. MEYNER IN TESTIMONY AND GOODLING DURING GENERAL DIS-
CUSSION OUTLINED IMPRESSIONS FROM THEIR VISITS THAT
PEOPLE THEY TALKED TO WERE NOT BEING FORCED TO EXPRESS
VIEWS CONTRARY TO ACTUAL FEELINGS, THAT VILLAGERS SEEMED
THINK THERE HAD BEEN ENOUGH KILLING AND THEY WANTED GET
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INTEGRATION INTO INDONESIA. GOODLING WAS PARTICULARLY
EFFECTIVE IN RELATING CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIESTS AND
NUNS WHO HAD JUDGED THAT FRETELIN ATROCITIES WERE POLICY
FROM LEADERS WHILE ATROCITIES ATTRIBUTED TO INDONESIAN
TROOPS HAD BEEN ABERRATIONS BY INDIVIDUALS. GOODLING
RECOUNTED REPORTS THAT FRETELIN FORCES STILL RAIDING
TIMORESE VILLAGES AND KILLING SOME INHABITANTS AS
INTIMIDATION TACTIC. TEXTS PREPARED REMARKS MEYNER,
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FORMAN AND TRAUBE BEING POUCHED.

5. INDONESIAN EMBASSY REPS NOT PRESENT DURING HEARING,
APPARENTLY THROUGH ERRONEOUS BELIEF THAT HEARINGS WERE
CLOSED. CHRISTOPHER

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APPROVED BY IO:MESWOPE
----------017898 010623Z /13
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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151528

FOL RPT STATE 151528 SENT ACTION JAKARTA DATED 29 JUN 77

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON TIMOR

REF: JAKARTA 7604

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TESTIMONY CENTENED HSHME S TH EH T EORS.

3. GENERAL THRUST OF FORMAN AND TRAUBE TESTIMONY, BASED PRIMARILY ON 15 MONTH AND TWO YEAR RESIDENCES ENDING 1974 IN EAST TIMOR STUDYING MAKASSAE AND MAMBAI PEOPLES, RESPECTIVELY, WAS STATEMENT THEIR SHARED BELIEF THAT PEOPLES OF EAST TIMOR ARE CAPABLE OF DECIDING OWN FUTURE AND THAT CHOICE SO FAR DENIED TO THEM. FORMAN ADVANCED

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EA/IMS:DPSULLIVAN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151528

FOLLOWING SECSTATE 151528 SENT ACTION JAKARTA JUNE 29, 1977
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ID

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: DPSULLIVAN:CCH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
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SAS ID: 2161507
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON TIMOR
TAGS: SHUM, ID
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
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22 May 2009
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